



When pet waste is left on the ground, our water is affected

How serious a problem is pet waste?

- Decayed pet waste seeps into the ground, sending *E. coli*, a bacteria that lives in the intestines of warm-blooded animals, and potential pathogens into the ground water and eventually waterways.
- Rainwater run-off may wash contaminated pet waste into storm sewers and from there into lakes, rivers and streams.

What is the problem?

- The current No. 1 water pollution problem comes from nonpoint source pollution.
- Nonpoint source pollution means the pollutants come from several sources instead of one discharge point.
- Nonpoint pollution occurs away from waterways, so many people do not realize they are contributing to water pollution.
 - Pet owners do not pick up and properly dispose of their pets' waste.
 - Cars leak fluids such as oil or antifreeze on the pavement.
 - Property owners do not follow directions and put too much fertilizer on their lawns.
 - People wash their cars in their driveways or on the streets.
 - The rainwater will wash the pollutants into storm sewers.
 - The pollution will be carried – untreated – to the nearest body of water.

What can I do?

- Scoop up pet waste.
- Flush the waste – as long as it isn't mixed in with litter or other material – so that it is properly treated before it is disposed of.
- If local law allows, contain the waste in a plastic bag and toss it in your trash.
- If your community does not regulate the disposal of pet waste, encourage your town board, city council or county government to enact new laws.
- If your local parks do not provide pet waste stations, encourage them to do so.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, you may contact the Indiana Department of Environmental Management at (317) 232-8172 or visit IDEM's Web site at <http://www.in.gov/idem/>.